ALTESS News

MAUI Update

Raymond S. Soroka

Got applications (apps)? Got too many apps? Of course you do. We all do. The acquisition world is full of hundreds — if not thousands — of applications, and we use way too many of them on a daily basis. Surely there must be a simpler way to handle the data contained in the Acquisition Business Mission Area that you deal with every day. There is an easier way — the Master Acquisition User Interface (MAUI), a project sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and the Program Executive Officer Enterprise Information Systems.

MAUI is at the heart of application consolidation within Acquisition Information Management (AIM) and will provide a single interface and functionality that will allow you to interact with all data contained in each acquisition life-cycle phase.

As you already know, the Monthly Acquisition Program Review and Monthly Acquisition Report have been retired and the trend will continue. MAUI has attained several milestones since the last update in this magazine. We have formed a very successful Subject Matter Expert Integrated Process Team (IPT) that meets regularly. This IPT has been invaluable in identifying data sources and the business process associated with that data. This knowledge capture is being formalized and will help shape MAUI's structure and functionality. The initial draft of the MAUI Requirements Design Document is being prepared and, once the Critical Design Review is complete, we anticipate an initial release sometime this fall.

Interface Strategy

MAUI, at its simplest, will contain two broad functional capabilities. One segment will be devoted to data entry and the other to data retrieval. The data entry segment will allow you to enter all your acquisition data into one area as opposed to having to launch multiple applications, as you probably do now. The data retrieval segment will allow you to extract your data in formats that are familiar to you. These include Probability of Program Success charts, SmartCharts, acquisition category reports and acquisition program baselines.

Data Strategy

As the Army transitions to net-centricity, MAUI will align its data foundations accordingly. Net-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES) is defining how data needs to work in the enterprise, and the Product Manager Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (PM ALTESS) database operations group is fine-tuning its own data strategy to align with it. The Common Organizational Database Infrastructure for Everyone project is the lead entity for current database operations within AIM. Operation Firedog, another ALTESS mission, is the transformational plan that will carry forward the acquisition data and functional components contained in AIM to the next level, which is NCES and Global Information Grid compliancy.

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Virtual InSight (VIS)

MAJ Steve Lundy and Daniel Rivera

On Feb. 7, 2005, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT) signed the VIS implementation memorandum establishing policy and responsibility for using the VIS system to support the milestone decision review process. Once fully implemented, VIS usage will be mandated for all Army acquisition category I, II and III systems.

The Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) has approved Phase 1, Limited Deployment Decision of 15,000 user licenses. Additional approval was given to enter into Phase 1.1 to conduct a System Acceptance Test and Lead Site Validation Test. Phase 1.1 will validate the commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) components' usability as well as the hardware and network environment's ability to sustain the expected user load.

A regional training calendar will be published to inform the acquisition community when the Product Manager Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (PM ALTESS) trainers will be on-site to conduct training. The VIS team will work closely with ASAALT proponents and PEO functional advocates to allocate and prioritize training. PM ALTESS VIS user account distribution is as follows:

User Community	Quantity
U.S. Army Materiel Command	1,000
U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command	500
HQDA	500
Joint PEO Chemical and Biological Defense	1,000
PEO Ammunition	1,000
PEO Missiles and Space	1,000
PEO Aviation	1,000
PEO Command, Control and Communications Tactical	1,000
PEO Combat Support and Combat Service Support	1,000
PEO EIS	1,000
PEO Ground Combat Systems	1,000
PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors	1,000
PEO Soldier	1,000
PEO Simulation, Training and Instrumentation	1,000
U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command	500
Reserve	1,000
Other users	500

The Acquisition Information Management (AIM) system will be used to track user requests of the VIS components. The AIM Web site address is **https://aim.altess.army.mil**. Non-AIM users will have to apply for an AIM account and request access to the VIS components. Current AIM users will request access through the MyAIM link. Once the user's account is created, the VIS components can be accessed via the AIM Web site or by going to **https://vportal.altess.army.mil/vis**.

PM ALTESS was granted an Interim Authority to Operate for the VIS system March 14, 2005, and is working toward an Authority to Operate. The VIS Oracle COTS collaboration products were certified by the Joint Interoperability Test Command July 14, 2004.

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Contracting Community Highlights

In *Army AL&T* Magazine's "Contracting Community Highlights" section, each feature article is intended to provide in-depth information relative to a contracting organization, mission or process. This issue's feature article, "Bundling Contract Requirements," gives an in-depth overview of "bundling" requirements and their legal bases, when the requirements apply to an acquisition, and courses of action. Roger Neds, Chief General Counsel, Army Contracting Agency (ACA) Northern Region Headquarters, provides this article as an instructive tool on this concept.

In addition to the feature, we provide news from a number of our contracting organizations, such as announcing the winners of the General Services Administration Ida Ustad Award for Excellence in Acquisition and California's Employer of the Year Award. This issue, our regular "DAR Council Corner" provides a list of Army *Defense Acquisition Regulation* and *Federal Acquisition Regulation* representatives.

We appreciate the continued support from the field in providing material to submit for publication, and we hope you find the submissions as informative and interesting as we do. If you need more information on any of the topics presented, call (703) 604-7107 or e-mail **ann.scotti@hqda.army.mil** for the pertinent contact information.

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